



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Management

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**DISASTER FIELD OFFICE
5701 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD
NORTON, VIRGINIA 24273
FEMA-1411-DR-VA
Commonwealth Situation Report #9
Wednesday, 15 May 2002**

1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:

1200 hours 14 May 2002 through 1200 hours 15 May 2002. (New information in italics)

2. SITUATION:

On the evening of 28 April a severe weather system entered Virginia from the west and, once across the Blue Ridge Mountains, developed into a series of tornadoes. Local emergencies were declared in Bedford City, and Bedford, Campbell, Greensville, and Shenandoah Counties. On 2 May 2002, continuing severe weather impacted Virginia. Wind, rain and flood damage was again widespread with the most severe damage occurring in the southwest part of the state. In Buchanan County, heaviest damage was northeast of Grundy in the vicinity of Hurley, and was due to flash flooding and mudslides. Damaging floodwaters and strong winds also impacted nearby Tazewell County.

Local emergencies were declared in Bedford City and the counties of Bedford, Campbell, Shenandoah, and Greensville on 28 April 2002.

On 2 May 2002, Governor Warner declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth in response to the tornado damage on 28 April 2002. On 3 May 2002 the declaration was expanded to include the areas affected by the storms of 2 May.

Local emergencies were declared in Buchanan and Tazewell Counties on 2 May 2002.

On 3 May 2002, Governor Warner requested that President Bush declare a major disaster for Bedford, Campbell, Greensville, Shenandoah, Buchanan, Tazewell, Cumberland, and Prince Edward counties and for the cities of Colonial Heights and Bedford.

On 5 May 2002, President Bush declared a major disaster for the Commonwealth of Virginia in FEMA 1411-DR-VA in Buchanan and Tazewell Counties for Individual Assistance (IA) and Hazard Mitigation.

On 8 May 2002, the Major Disaster Declaration was amended to include Public Assistance for the counties of Buchanan and Tazewell.

Functions at the Wise DFO established in a prior declared disaster, DR-1406-VA, have been expanded to include operations for DR-1411-VA. The DFO hours of operation are 0800 hrs to 1630 hrs Monday through Saturday. The DFO will continue to be closed on Sundays. Situation Reports will be published daily.

In the flash flooding event in Hurley, Virginia, two deaths are confirmed, 0 missing. There have been 11 work related injuries reported. Power has been restored to 75-80 percent of the Hurley area. Telephone service is restored. *Buchanan County schools have reopened with the exception of Hurley schools. Hurley schools are scheduled to reopen 20 May 2002, with high and middle school students attending classes at the Hurley Middle School on different schedules.*

State agencies and other representatives on the scene include: Virginia State Police (VSP), Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), Army National Guard (ANG), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA), Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation (VDCR), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Army Corps of Engineers, Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), Veterans Administration (VA), American Red Cross (ARC), Virginia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VVOAD), Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Adventist Disaster Services, Cumberland Mountain Community Service Board, and clean up crews from the Virginia Southern Baptist Disaster Services, Virginia Department of Corrections(VDOC), AmeriCorps and Virginia Wilderness Institute.

3. WEATHER:

Thursday: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid and upper 70s. Lows from the upper 40s to the lower 50s. Southwest winds 5-15 mph.

4. CURRENT PRIORITIES:

- A. Prepare for Community Meeting in Hurley.
- B. Expedite the assessment of housing needs and availability.
- C. Assist in Hurley Recovery in Buchanan County.
- D. *Resolve access problems for stranded population.*
- E. Manage expectations.
- F. Determine optimum solutions for debris.
- G. *Maximize digital information systems while minimizing paper products.*

5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:

A. Individual Assistance (IA):

- Residents requiring disaster assistance are being referred to the FEMA teleregistration number, 1-800-621-3362, TTY 1-800-462-7585. These numbers are staffed 7 days a week, 0700 to 1900 hrs.

DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS**Daily Report****Buchanan County DRC, Hurley Middle School, State Route 643, Hurley, VA****Opened 7 May 2002, Hours 0900-1800 hrs, 7 days/wk.**

Date	Today's Recp.	Phone Bank	AA*	SBA*	HazMit*	IFG*	DUA*	CC*	IRS*	AGRI*	INS*	AGING*	VOL*	LEGAL*	Local Official	Paper Apps.
05/14	37	7	31	14	14	1	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	279	90	212	179	179	7	33	6	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	18

Daily Report**Tazewell County DRC, Old County Administration Building, 315 School St., Tazewell, VA****Opened 13 May 2002, Hours 0900-1800 hrs, 7 days/wk.**

Date	Today's Recp.	Phone Bank	AA*	SBA*	HazMit*	IFG*	DUA*	CC*	IRS*	AGRI*	INS*	AGING*	VOL*	LEGAL*	Local Official	Paper Apps.
05/14	6	1	5	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9	1	8	5	5	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Applicant Assistance (AA), Small Business Administration (SBA), Hazard Mitigation (HazMit), Individual & Family Grants (IFG), Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), Crisis Counseling (CC), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Department of Agriculture, Farm Services Bureau (AGRI), Insurance Help (INS), Aging Services (AGING), Volunteer Agencies (VOL), Legal Help (LEGAL)

- A Hurley community meeting will be held on Thursday, 16 May 2002, at 1900 hrs at the Hurley Middle School. Hurley and other Buchanan County residents will be able to talk to Federal and Commonwealth Officials about issues related to recovery.
- A FEMA-State session to prepare for the Hurley community meeting will be held at the DFO in Wise in Conference Room #1 at 1600 hrs on Wednesday, 15 May 2002.
- Red Cross is distributing meals prepared by the Virginia Baptists. Meals served totals 34,865, six shelters have been opened, 136 people have been sheltered, one person sheltered currently, 1 service center is open, and there have been 86 mental health contacts to date. Red Cross Family Services staff is located on the second floor of the high school in Hurley.
- Donated goods located at the Hurley Middle School *continue to be moved* to the Schell Building in Grundy, Virginia between Grundy and Vansant. Seventh Day Adventists are on site to manage warehouse functions *and are in the process of transitioning to that location. Phone service is available but currently there is no electricity at the new site. The date to transfer donations operations to Grundy may have to be moved out from 15 May 2002.*
- A local construction company has donated the use of a dumpster at the donations warehouse and the Town of Grundy has arranged for delivery and daily emptying.
- State/federal community relations are helping to coordinate clean up efforts by fifty (50) AmeriCorps workers in Hurley. *AmeriCorps volunteers have been assisting Seventh Day Adventists with donations, but today are working in the field*

in clean up operations. Necessary citizen release forms continue to be secured and are being left on homes with no occupant.

- The Regional Health Department has administered 1,050 tetanus shots to residents and workers at the Hurley Middle School. Hours for the clinic are 1000 hrs to 1300 hrs.
- Food and water is being distributed at the school. A total of 3500 gallons of potable water is available for distribution to disaster victims in Hurley. Another 4000 gallons is en route. More will be made available as needed.
- The Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) is assisting Buchanan County in finding housing for victims.
- The Virginia Health Department continues its “boil water” advisory for the Hurley area and is providing information on restarting wells.
- Donations are being received at the Hurley Middle School. No more clothing donations are being accepted. Cash donations are being accepted by the Clinch Independent Living Services, PO Box 2741, Grundy, Virginia 24614. Requested items include cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products, diapers, food, rakes and shovels, and work gloves.
- The Human Services Program Summary as of COB 14 May 2002 follows:

REGISTRATIONS & CONTACTS

	<i>Since Last Report</i>	<i>Designated Cities/Counties</i>	<i>Undesignated Counties</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>
<i>Teleregistrations</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>940/2</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>956</i>
<i>Helpline Calls</i>	<i>60</i>			<i>268</i>

Disaster Unemployment Assistance

<i>CLAIMS</i>	<i>SINCE LAST REPORT</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Filed</i>		
<i>Approved</i>		
<i>Paid (#)</i>		
<i>Paid (\$)</i>		

Disaster Housing Program

<i>REGISTRATIONS</i>	<i>SINCE LAST REPORT</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Received</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>843</i>
<i>Approved</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>308</i>
<i>Pending</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>455</i>
<i>Approved Eligible (\$)</i>	<i>\$222,819.43</i>	<i>\$664,338.58</i>
<i>Assistance Checks</i>		
<i>Recommended (#)</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>238</i>
<i>Recommended (\$)</i>	<i>\$130,338.30</i>	<i>\$495,063.76</i>

Individual & Family Grant Program

<i>REGISTRATIONS</i>	<i>SINCE LAST REPORT</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Received</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>479</i>
<i>Received by State</i>		<i>0*</i>
<i>Pending Decision</i>		
<i>Eligible (#)</i>		
<i>Eligible (\$)</i>		
<i>Disbursed (#)</i>		
<i>Disbursed (\$)</i>		

Small Business Administration

LOAN APPLICATIONS	HOME	BUSINESS	ECONOMIC INJURY (EIDL)	TOTAL
Issued	413	102	0	515
Received	45	9	9	63
Declined	0	0	0	0
Withdrawn	0	0	0	0
Approved (#)	5	0	0	5
Approved (\$)	\$68,900	0	0	\$68,900
Pending	40	9	9	58

**IFG toggles have been turned on for processing. No applications have been received by the State*

- The Virginia Bar Association has activated a toll-free Disaster Legal Services Number, 1-800-552-7977, to provide emergency legal services to disaster victims.
- Cumberland Mountain Community Service Board is functioning out of the Hurley DRC and is providing Mental Health, Crisis Counseling, and Critical Stress Debriefing services as needed.
- DHCD is pursuing a local hire Housing Specialist to assist disaster victims with housing issues through the Hurley DRC.
- Disaster assistance for Buchanan County has been expanded to include Emergency Food Stamps. Applications will be accepted 13 May 2002 through 17 from 0830 hrs to 1600 hrs at the Social Security office on Route 83 at Slate Creek. Contact for information is Buchanan County Social Services at 276-935-8106.
- A phone bank has been established to coordinate volunteer groups offering assistance. Volunteers can call 276-935-7419, then identify nature of call, what services they wish to perform, and leave a callback number.
- The Claypool Hill/Richlands Lowe's has donated \$3,000 worth of shovels and clean-up equipment for disaster victims
- Knox Creek Fire Department trucks are back in service but there is no building to house the vehicles.

B. Public Assistance (PA)

- Seven (7) Requests for Public Assistance (RPAs) have been received and seven kick-off meetings have been held. *Three to four additional RPAs are anticipated.*
- Current damage estimate totals \$6,997,089.94. The current eligible project worksheet amounts to \$47,201.46.
- The National Guard was activated 3 May 2002 and assisted by installing temporary bridges. Later assistance has been and continues to be in debris clearance in the Hurley area, with deployment through 17 May 2002.

C. Community Relations (CR):

- Three (3) FEMA Field Officers are deployed, one in Tazewell County and two in Buchanan County.
- One VDEM Field Officer is deployed in the Buchanan County
- Contacts continue to be made with *concentration on displaced residents in Buchanan County not yet registered. Of the 55 listed as displaced, 16 have not registered.*
- Audiotapes of disaster assistance information are available.
- A temporary Post Office for Hurley has been established in Blackey at the Blackey Teen Center. Mail to Hurley residents should use the normal Hurley address.

- Individuals unable to work because of severe storms and flooding in Southwest Virginia may file for Disaster Unemployment Assistance at the nearest VEC field office by no later than 10 June 2002.

D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):

- State and federal Hazard Mitigation staff met with Hurley officials on 14 May 2002 to discuss the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).
- Contacts have been made to arrange for participation by agency representatives at the 16 May 2002 community meeting in Hurley. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Forestry (DOF), State Corporation Commission (SCC) Division of Insurance, and Department of Community Development (DHCD) have been asked to attend.
- Data is being extracted from study maps and data set from Army Corps of Engineers to assist Buchanan County to become compliant with NFIP reconstruction and renovation.
- Survey of stream damage in Buchanan & Tazewell Counties by NRCS anticipated week of 20 May.
- Draft of Administrative & Hazard Mitigation strategy plan will be drafted for submission to the DFO/SCO week of 13 May.
- *An Environmental Scoping Meeting was held at the DFO in Wise on 15 May 2002. Environmental and permitting information was made available by appropriate federal agencies.*

E. Public Affairs Office (PAO):

- News release issued on AmeriCorps volunteers performing clean up operations in Hurley.
- *Appropriate radio stations have been asked to re-release notice of the Hurley community meeting being held on 16 May 2002. Additional flyers are being distributed in the affected areas to advise residents of the opportunity to learn of State/Federal disaster related programs and to ask questions of appropriate agency representatives.*
- *A news release reminding disaster victims to register with FEMA even if they have registered locally with the American Cross and providing the FEMA Teleregistration/HelpLine telephone numbers has been issued.*

F. Legislative Liaison:

- Congressional representatives have been invited to attend a meeting at the Wise DFO, Conference Room #1, at 1400 hrs on 15 May 2002 for a discussion of any disaster issues in their respective areas.
- A staff member of US Congressman Virgil Goode called 13 May 2002 regarding availability of assistance for tornado victims in his district. Designations of these jurisdictions have not yet been determined.

G. Hazardous Materials:

- Residents who find HazMat containers, drums, or spills on their property are being encouraged to call 276-566-8524 and regional HazMat responders will assess the situation and take corrective measures.

- Reconnaissance teams have covered 128 miles of waterway and roadway, checking on foot, by boat, and by vehicle for hazardous materials.
- Significant HazMat operations are ongoing in Buchanan County. HazMat Teams from Wise County, Giles County, City of Salem, and City of Bristol have worked nearly *1,460* hours since the beginning of the event. Items recovered include 1-20,000 gal. tank, 11-20 lb., 15-100 lb., 11 large (100-500 lb.) propane tanks, 1-20 gal. drum, 8-35 gal. drums, 69-55 gal. drums, 27-65 gal. drums, 9-275 gal. tanks, 10-550 gal. tanks, 4-1,000 gal. tanks, numerous 5-gal. containers, 2 gas pumps, 2 kerosene heaters, 8 pressure tanks, 26 vehicle gas tanks, 1 cylinder, 1 transformer, *2 water heaters, 28 gas cans, 54 auto batteries, miscellaneous pesticides, and hundreds of pieces of miscellaneous household waste.* Disposal operations are ongoing. A mobile HazMat command post has been established outside of the Hurley Middle School in Hurley. DEQ is working out of the HazMat command post. Local propane companies have assisted by removing tanks from the area.

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15 May 2002

Michael M. Cline, SCO